

Circle of Swords Gaming Guild Gaming Convention & Expo Information Packet



For COSCON (Spring) & SIBCON (Fall)
Gaming Conventions



Who and What

You're invited to join us for either of our annual three-day Gaming Conventions and Expos: our spring classic convention, COSCON, and our fall premier convention, **SIBCON**.

The Circle of Swords Gaming Guild (COS) is based in Butler, PA, but claims members throughout the entire country and has provided conventions for its members and other gaming enthusiasts for over 15 years, and with your help we will continue to do so for many more years!

The Circle of Swords also provides a Living COSWorld fantasy role-playing realm that runs from convention to convention where your Living character can advance and take part. COS also sponsors monthly gaming events, a Quarterly Club Newsletter "The Adventurer", as well as exciting COSQuest and ChillQuest Live Action Role-Playing events during the year and MET Vampire: The Masquerade at our conventions.

Memberships to the Circle of Swords costs \$5 per year and entitles you to club discounts and a full access to club information circles, which will keep you informed of club activities throughout the year. You can sign up for a membership at the door of the convention or by visiting our website listed below to obtain a membership form.

To download convention materials and to keep up to date in regards to special convention events and features, visit us at:

www.CircleofSwords.Com

or email us at

COSGuild@CircleofSwords.Com

You can also contact our Guildmaster, Dave Schnur, by phone or email at

724-283-1159

saldo316@hotmail.com.

You may contact us by any of these methods if you need any clarification about the information within this packet. If you need assistance at the convention itself, please feel free to speak with our Staff at the Registration Area.

When packing your game case for the convention, be sure to include this information packet to better help navigating the gaming areas, as there will NOT be an "on-site" book provided. Any new events or changes to the games listed here will be posted online and at event sign up beside the registration desk.

Thank you for taking interest in COS Conventions! We hope you are able to attend and that you enjoy your gaming experience with us and other avid gamers!

Where and When

General

When: COSCON & SIBCON (Dates May Vary)

Where: Butler Days Inn
Route 8 just south of Butler
Butler, PA 16002

Times and Locations

Friday

Registration

12:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Holiday Hall Entrance

Gaming Sessions

2:00 PM to 6:00 PM

8:00 PM to 12:00 AM

Exhibitors

4:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Heritage Hall

Saturday

Registration

8:00 AM to 9:00 PM

Holiday Hall Entrance

Gaming Sessions

9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

2:00 PM to 6:00 PM

8:00 PM to 12:00 AM

Exhibitors

11:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Heritage Hall

Sunday

Registration

8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Holiday Hall Entrance

Gaming Sessions

9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

2:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Exhibitors

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Heritage Hall

Special Events

Game Master Raffle Drawing

Sun 3:00 PM

Registration Desk

Quest Raffle Drawing

Sun 3:00 PM (following the GM Raffle)

Registration Desk

Auctions & Other Special Events

Time & Type Vary from Con to Con

Locations Vary

(Include Charity & Gamers' Auctions & Raffles,
Painting contests, seminars, etc.)

Consult www.CircleofSwords.com for more information!

Hotel Registration

Rooms (plus 6% PA sales tax, and hotel tax) for 1 to 4 people per room may be rented at a discounted rate for attending the convention. Convention rates are based upon availability and additional charges for a king size bed may apply! The rate is only guaranteed to approximately two weeks prior to the convention, so please reserve your room early!

Room Reservations can be made by contacting:

Butler Days Inn
139 Pittsburgh Road
Butler, PA 16002
(724) 287-6761

Be sure to mention **COSCON** or **SIBCON** to get the convention rates.

Check-In

Check-in and registration for the convention will be at the registration desk at the entrance to Holiday Hall. Our pleasant staff workers will help you with any problems you may have while a guest at a **COS Convention**.

Prices

Convention Registration

Three-day Badge

\$20.00 Pre-Registered (by two weeks prior to the con).
\$30.00 on site

One-day Badge

\$15 Pre-Registered (by two weeks prior to the con).
\$20.00 on site

Visitor's Badge/Per Day

\$10.00 on site only

Three-day Badge includes three (3) days admission to the convention, including the Adventuring Areas, Adventure Registration Rights, Exhibitor Area, Open Gaming, Auction and Seminars.

One-day Badge includes one (1) day admission to the convention, including the Adventuring Areas, Adventure Registration Rights, Exhibitor Area, open Gaming, Auction (Saturday pass only), and Seminars held same day as pass. One-day Badges can be upgraded to a three-day Badge on the day of use.

Visitor's Day Badge includes Admission to Exhibitor Area and Game observation. Visitor Badges can be upgraded to a one or Three day Badge on the day of your visit. Misuse of a Visitor's Day Badge will result in the offender being expelled from the convention and barred from any future COS events.

Exhibitors/Vendors

A wide range of Exhibitors and Vendors will be available in Heritage Hall throughout the convention. Please make an effort to visit their tables frequently during the convention.

Adventure Registration

Holders of the Three and One-day Adventure Badges are allowed to participate in all adventures held at the **convention** by paying the additional adventure registration fee. All scheduled Adventures will be \$1.00 per session. Individual event prices may vary and some card tournaments may require deck fees, so be sure to check the event description.

Generic Event Tickets in the form of COS Bucks will be used as admission for **ALL** rounds that you play or advance. COS Bucks will be collected by the GM at the table. Event sign-up sheets will be posted near the registration desk for the current days sessions and the first session of the following day only. Players will be selected in the order they are listed on the sign-up sheets. This policy was made to better accommodate alternate players when regular players don't show up for a scheduled gaming session.

COS Bucks will be available for purchase at the registration desk. The cost is \$1.00 each. Should your event be cancelled, you may redeem your COS Bucks at the Registration or Vendor areas for full ticket value (\$1.00).

Tournament Results & Postings

RPGA Events will use the NO VOTE option. As such there will not be posted Tournament results. Adventure additions, changes, or cancellations will be marked at the sign up table beside the registration desk. Tournament advancements will also be posted here by your GM. If your event carries a prize, it will be handed out by the GM following the gaming session.

Fee Payment Methods & Refunds

Checks will **ONLY** be accepted during the pre-registration period. Cash, (U.S. currency only please) will be the single form of payment accepted at the convention site. COS does **NOT** accept credit cards. No personal checks will be accepted by COS at the door. MAC/Cirrus/Plus machines are within walking distance.

The Days Inn will accept credit cards, you may pay the Days Inn with a credit card upon check out.

Refunds will only be given for unused Generic Adventure tickets (COS Bucks). Refunds are subject to the approval of the convention director. All other fees are Non Refundable. Hotel fees are refundable at the discretion of the hotel management. Contact the hotel's front desk if you have any questions or concerns regarding the hotel facilities or policies.

Although we strive for the greatest accuracy, the Circle of Swords is not responsible for any errors or omissions that may appear in this packet. Circle of Swords also reserves the right to change an event's starting time, price, game master, or to cancel or add any event.

Security

There will be security on duty in all areas of the **convention** site. Remember that the hotel is a public facility and that you are expected to respect the privacy of all other guests.

Gathering Areas

Role Playing Game players will meet in a gathering area in the hall outside of Holiday Hall - DO NOT report directly to the table or you may lose your spot. Live Action RolePlayers will use the Butler Room as a starting and wrap up area. Miniature and board games will be held in Holiday Hall East. Card games will be held in the Ruebling Room. PC Games will be in Room 114. Seminars and the Flea Market will be held in the Butler Room. Vendors will be in Heritage Hall (Rooms subject to change).

If you are signed up as an alternate player please report to the RPG gathering area or location assigned to see if slots are open for you to play.

Board Game Rental

A variety of board games will be available for rent at **COS conventions** at the registration desk. See the event listing for more information. To rent, be prepared with a photo ID and a \$1 COS Buck rental fee. Your photo ID will be held until the game is checked back in.

Food

There are many restaurants located within walking and driving distance of the convention site. The hotel typically plans a dinner Friday and Saturday evenings, and Brunch on Sunday. The Hotel also plans to open their concession area at peak times during the convention. *Note: Bribing GM's with gifts of food and drink is NOT prohibited and is seen as a welcomed sign of caring and consideration toward your fellow man/woman.*

Lost and Found

The registration desk will double as a Lost and Found area for the **convention**.

If you find something that does not belong to you, please bring it to the registration desk. Remember, "finders keepers" is thievery if the person is still looking for the item. All unclaimed property will be returned to the finders, if they are still present, at the end of the convention. Otherwise it becomes the property of COS.

If you lost something, stop by the registration desk and let us know. We will try to keep an eye out for it.

The staff of **COS Conventions** is not responsible for lost or stolen articles. So, please, keep an eye out for thieves from this and other spheres and keep all your valuables in a safe place.

Emergency Information

If an emergency arises and you must be reached at the Butler Days Inn during the convention, call 724 - 287 - 6761. The address is: Butler Days Inn, 139 Pittsburgh Road, Butler, PA 16002. Please be certain that anyone who may need to contact you has this information. Cell phones and pagers may be brought with you to the convention, but please be considerate of fellow gamers when accepting calls or pages.

GM/Worker Raffle

A special raffle for GM's and workers will be held at 3:00 PM on Sunday, based on prizes and company support. All GM's and workers will be entitled to one entry in the raffle per round that they run or work. We do our best to register GM/Workers shortly after the start of each gaming session. If you run an event but a Staff member doesn't visit your table during the session, register at the registration desk immediately afterward.

Quest Raffle & Point Buy

COSQUEST, Circle of Swords freeform live-action role-playing, will hold a charity raffle. The drawing will be held on Sunday at 3:00 PM. Tickets are \$1.00 and can be purchased all weekend long at the registration desk. Because of some previous confusion, we have decided that the only way to make this popular convention tradition fair for all participants is to abide by a set of rules. So here they are:

- Tickets may be purchased all weekend up until 2:00 PM on Sunday.
- The winners will be selected promptly at 3:00 PM on Sunday.
- All eligible tickets MUST be dropped into the raffle box before 3:00 PM. No tickets will be permitted to enter the raffle box after 3:00 or once the drawings have begun.
- Raffle tickets placed in the box for the drawings must have a legible, first and last name written on the ticket. (No nicknames or character names, please!) Any ticket drawn that is not readable will be discarded and a new winner drawn as its replacement.
- Prizes will be awarded in order beginning with the "grand prize".
 - 1 Grand Prize - 15 Skill Points
 - 2 12 Skill Points
 - 3 10 Skill Points
 - 4 8 Skill Points
 - 5 6 Skill Points
 - 6 5 Skill Points
 - 7 4 Skill Points
 - 8 3 Skill Points
 - 9 2 Skill Points

In addition to the raffle, you may purchase skill points for charity at the reg desk in \$5/Skill Point increments up to a maximum \$25/Five Skill Points. The Charity Organization is chosen every year, so please check the Registration Area for the Organization for that particular convention.

CONVENTION RULES AND REGULATIONS

Name Badges

You must wear your convention Name Badge to ALL convention functions. The Badge must be clearly visible on your person. If you do not wear your Badge, you will not be permitted to participate in convention activities. A lost Badge must be re-purchased at the registration desk.

If you pre-register, your Badge and advance tickets sales will be given to you at the time of convention check-in.

Alcoholic Beverages

Any and all persons found in violation of PA LAWS concerning the consumption of Alcoholic Beverages, will be prosecuted by local authorities. Absolutely no alcoholic beverages will be allowed in the gaming areas. Violators will have their Badges revoked and be expelled from the convention.

Costume Policy

Costumes are welcome at the convention as they sometimes aid in the spirit of role-playing. We ask only that you obey two guidelines:

1. NO WEAPONS of any kind are permitted
2. All costumes must be in good taste. Lewd or offensive costumes are (as always) right out. The convention staff will be the sole determiners of the definition of good taste (we are flexible, but do not push us).

Inappropriately costumed participants will be refused admission to the convention.

Children

No one under the age of thirteen (13) will be admitted to the convention without accompanying adult (age 18 or older) supervision.

Selling or Soliciting

No individual, organization, or firm may sell or exhibit merchandise or services, distribute, post handbills, or solicit funds without prior written permission from the convention coordinator. Violators will have their Badges revoked and be expelled from the convention.

Trademarks and Other Lawful Things

Most games and titles that appear in this booklet are the registered trademarks or copyrights of their respective gaming companies and their usage is not intended as an infringement of their rights.

Smoking Policy

COS Conventions are smoke free conventions. All gaming areas are NO SMOKING. This includes the area surrounding the registration desk, Japanimation film area, and Vendor Room. Second hand smoke reeks havoc on the tired and strained vocal chords of your game master and may cause discomfort to fellow players.

Other public areas of the hotel may also be NO SMOKING. Please obey the posted signs.

Stealing and General Unlawfulness

Theft may be okay in other spheres but it is a crime in this one. Anyone caught engaging in an illegal activity will be ejected from the convention with no refunds, no readmission, and no respect and will face any legal charges issued by law enforcement personnel.

Other Rules

All guests of the convention and the Butler Days Inn are expected to abide by the rules in this booklet as well as any others set down by the convention staff and Butler Days Inn. Please be aware that failure to comply with these could result in your expulsion from the convention.

If you have any problems, complaints, or questions, please bring them to the registration desk or a staff member and we will try to work things out.

Workers & Game Masters

If you are interested in being a staff worker or GM at a COS Convention, please get in contact with Dave Schnur (724-283-1159 or saldo316@hotmail.com) or leave him a message at the registration desk.

Those who sign up to work/run three or more slots of staff events prior to the registration deadline will receive free admission to the convention.

Game Master's who run events other than demo's/seminar's are eligible to collect the \$1 COS Buck entry fee at their table for running the event.

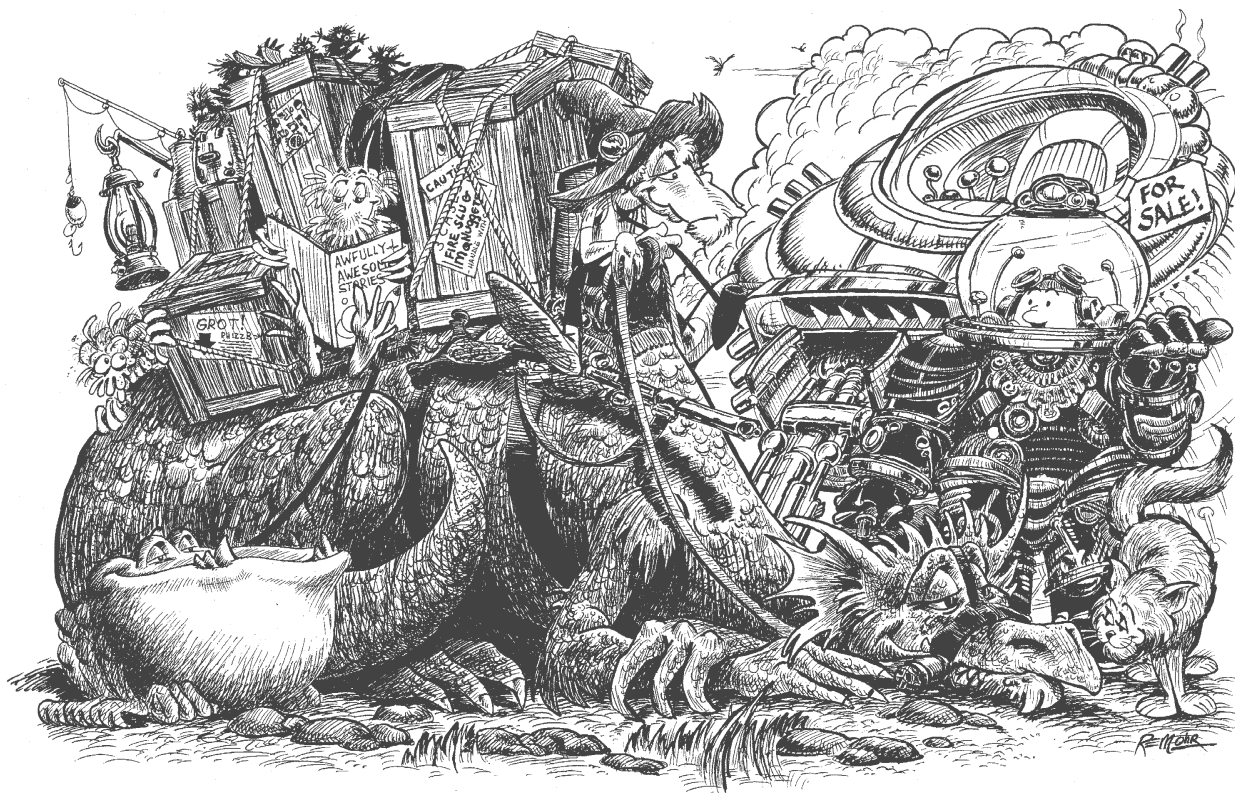
Those GMs who sign up to run three or more COS STAFF events, or slots of their own events prior to the Registration Booklet printing deadline, will receive free admission to the convention in addition to COS Buck Event Ticket collection.

Bring a Copy

Please bring a photocopy of all Pre-Registration paperwork to the convention should there be any questions. Then we will be better able to serve you and correct any misunderstandings.

Movies & Animation

Movies and Japanese Animation may be available depending upon demand throughout the convention outside of the Holiday Hall entrance.



Be sure to visit the Flea Market for countless new and gently used gaming products!

Convention and Club Souvenirs

The marvelous cover artwork each convention is supplied by George Vrbanc of *Infinite Images* and is silk screened and individually air-brushed onto a white T-shirt for a prominent collectible souvenir and doubles as the convention logo. The T-shirts display the colorful logo that also serves as a tribute to the theme of the convention special events. These T-shirts are available to you for the low price of \$15 pre-reg/\$20 On Site. Quantities will be limited and based off of pre-registration totals, and due to the overwhelming popularity of previous years shirts, we HIGHLY recommend buying through pre-reg to guarantee delivery.

Also available are other Circle of Swords collectibles, including custom 6-sided dice, pencils, tablets, and other handy gaming knick-knacks. All souvenirs are available at the Registration Area, though prices and convention specials or giveaways may vary.

SPECIAL THANKS!

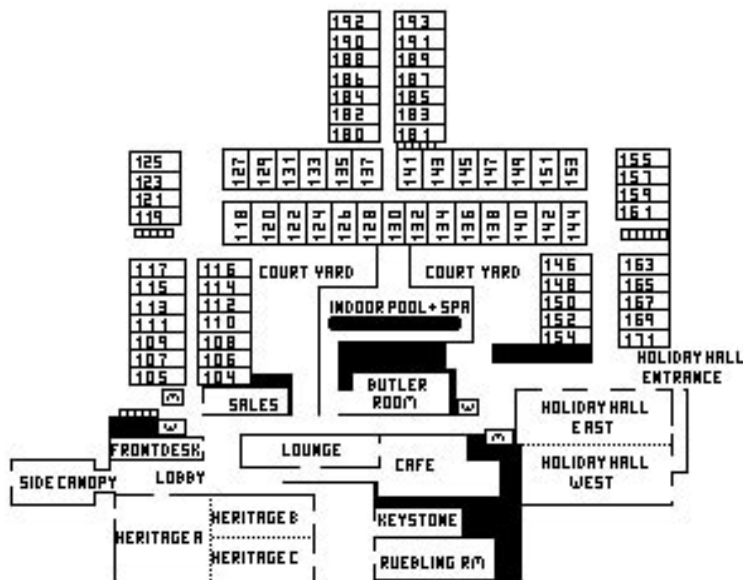
To the members of the Circle of Swords Gaming Guild for making us what we are today, the Game companies who supplied prizes, and last but not least, to each and every one of **YOU** for attending COS Conventions and making it better than ever. You make all the effort worthwhile!

To find up-to-date Convention information, as well as updated information on all Circle of Swords activities, visit www.CircleofSwords.com today!

The Butler Days Inn is located one mile South of Butler on Route 8. From the PA Turnpike (Route 76) take the Route 8, Butler Valley, Exit 4, North and travel approximately 15 miles. From Interstate 80 Take the Route 8 Exit South. From Interstate 79 take the Route 422 Exit East and travel approximately 15 miles to the Route 8 South interchange and follow Rt. 8 south through downtown Butler. For more detailed directions, contact the Butler Days Inn at (724)



BUTLER DAYS INN



- * Convention Registration is outside Holiday Hall East
- * Event Sign Up is outside Holiday Hall East
- * Role-Playing Games are in Holiday Hall West
- * Miniature, Board, and Open Gaming are in Holiday Hall East
- * Card Games are in the Ruebling Room
- * PC Games are in Room 114
- * LARP's are based in the Butler Room
- * Vendors are in Heritage Hall
- * Seminars are in the Butler Room
- * The Flea Market is in the